



JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 24, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: Approval of Walden University and the Proposed Graduate Programs to Submit Recommendations for Certificate Renewal or Advancement to a Michigan Professional Education Certificate

Walden University seeks approval to offer a Masters of Science in Education program in four areas of specialization: Elementary Reading and Literacy, Integrating Technology in the Classroom, Middle Level Education, and Educational Technology. State Board of Education (SBE) approval to offer these programs is required for Walden University to recommend teachers for certificate renewal and advancement to the Professional Education certificate.

Walden University is a graduate virtual university and does not include, in its mission, the initial preparation of teachers, nor is it approved to do so in any state. For these reasons, it is unique and does not fit within the framework of criteria for traditional teacher preparation institutions. However, Walden University's application has been reviewed with Board-approved criteria for this type of institution. Their program offerings have been submitted and are on file in the Office of Professional Preparation Services. Based on the value of its plans for meeting the needs and demands of teachers who are already certified, and its willingness to meet Michigan's requirements, Walden University and these programs are recommended for approval.

The Michigan Department of Education staff and staff of the Michigan Department of Career Development have collaborated in reviewing the unique features of Walden University's operation to develop criteria for review of graduate-only out-of-state institutions for specific functions. The criteria are based upon the criteria used for review of currently approved teacher preparation institutions to recommend candidates.

Walden University's application has been developed to meet the criteria drafted. The institution has made some specific changes to its policies in order to meet Michigan's specifications. If approved, Walden University will be required to submit evidence of the positive impact of its

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS - PRESIDENT • SHARON L. GIRE - VICE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL DAVID WARREN, JR. - SECRETARY • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER - TREASURER
MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE - NASBE DELEGATE • JOHN C. AUSTIN • HERBERT S. MOYER • SHARON A. WISE

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov • (517) 373-3324

programs upon Michigan teachers on a five-year schedule, using outcomes similar to those required of all teacher preparation institutions. These findings will determine Walden University's approval to continue recommending teachers for license renewal and for advancement to the Professional Education certificate.

Program materials relevant to this recommendation are available for review in the State Board of Education office.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education grant approval of Walden University and the proposed graduate programs to submit recommendations for certificate renewal or advancement to a Michigan Professional Education certificate, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2002.